

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Introduction to Psychology
Unleveled
Mrs. Shannon Curioso
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Room 217

I. Course Overview: *Half Year – .5 credit*

The study of psychology is extraordinarily diverse and reflects how complex and fascinating human behavior can be. This course introduces students to different psychological concepts, theories, and methods that give us a greater understanding of the human mind and behavior. Students in this course will examine how we perceive reality, how we learn, how we think, what creativity and intelligence really are, and how humans develop from infancy through adulthood. This elective will include projects, presentations and short papers.

Units of Study:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Body and Mind
- Learning and Cognition
- Development and Personality
- Health and Adjustment

II. Overall Course Objectives:

- *By the end of the course, students will begin to develop:*
 - scientific attitudes and skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, and an appreciation for scientific methodology
 - recognition of the diversity of individuals who advance the field
 - a multicultural and global perspective that recognizes how diversity is important to understanding psychology
 - an awareness that psychological knowledge, like all scientific knowledge, evolves rapidly as new discoveries are made
 - acknowledgement that psychology explores behavior and mental processes of both human and non-human animals
 - an ability to relate psychological knowledge to everyday life
 - an appreciation that psychological science and knowledge can be useful in addressing a wide array of issues, from individual to global levels
 - an awareness of the importance of drawing evidence-based conclusions about psychological phenomena

III. *Wheeler High School Academic Expectations met and evaluated by this course: Analysis, Collaboration, **Communication**, Literacy*

IV. *Material Required:*

- Textbook – *Psychology: Principles in Practice (2010)*
- 2-3 inch binder, folder, highlighter, and writing utensil (pen or pencil)

V. *Class/Behavior Expectations:*

- I strongly encourage you to participate positively in class, discussions and activities, as participation will enhance your interest and understanding of the course material. You must come to class with a curious, open, thoughtful and conscious mind. Inappropriate or derogatory behavior or comments will not be tolerated. You may not agree with everything you read or hear, but part of learning is to gather a diverse array of information, analyze your findings, draw your own conclusions, and then to express those conclusions in an appropriate manner. Everyone should feel comfortable sharing ideas and stories appropriate to class.
- Please keep your cell phones off and away at all times unless I tell you otherwise. [*See the cell phone policy on page 24 in the Student Handbook*]

VI. *Attendance Policy (BOE Policy #5113) – as stated in handbook:*

The North Stonington Public Schools believes that regular school attendance is essential for an effective and productive learning experience. The sequential presentation of school learning requires a continuity of instruction. The maximum benefits for each individual child can be achieved only from participation and interaction in daily activity. In addition to instruction, other learning processes take place each day that are vital to a student's overall emotional and social growth. Time lost in school is irretrievable in terms of instructional opportunity and social interaction.

The primary responsibility for adherence to regular attendance rests with the student's parents/guardians and the individual student. The Connecticut General Statutes requires students over five and under eighteen years of age to attend school on a regular basis. Appropriate legal action will be taken against parents/guardians whose children fail to abide by the Connecticut Compulsory Attendance Law.

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at their school, or an activity sponsored by the school (i.e., field trip), for at least half of the scheduled school day. Any student in school for less than half of the scheduled school day will be considered absent.

A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion will be considered absent.

Excused Absence

The Board believes a student should not be absent from school without the parents' knowledge and consent, therefore verification of an absence should be in writing by a parent or guardian. The first nine (9) absences will be considered excused if a parent approves the absence and if it is properly documented with a signed note from a parent or a notation is made in the student's attendance record by a school official who received either a verbal or electronic communication from the parent. Family vacations are discouraged during the school year.

For the tenth (10) absence and all absences thereafter, absences will be considered excused for the following reasons:

- a. Student Illness (verified by a medical professional);
- b. Student observance of a religious holiday;
- c. Death in a student's family or emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
- d. Mandated court appearance e. Extraordinary educational opportunities (i.e., college visits) pre-approved by district administrators and in accordance with SDE guidelines.

There shall be no penalty for an excused absence, however, a phone call from a parent does not necessarily constitute an excused absence. Students are encouraged to bring notes from their parent/guardian or physician to the Main Office on the day of return to school. These notes must specify the reason(s) for the absence and must conform to the Board of Education Policy # 5113. Excused absences will be listed on the morning bulletin of the day the note is received and marked in PowerSchool, and students will be allowed to make up all work missed. When a student is absent for extended periods of time--more than three days-- parents may obtain assignments from the teachers through the counseling office. Failure to make up assignments may result in a grade of zero for each missing assignment. A student may expect to have one day for each day of absence in order to make up missed work. If a student is absent from school, he/she may not be on school grounds. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the administration.

Unexcused Absence:

An unexcused absence occurs when a student is out of school beyond the first nine (9) absences, parent documentation is not provided for the first nine (9) absences and the absences does not meet one of the excused absence reasons listed above. For every unexcused absence, the student will not be allowed to make up or receive credit for work missed.

Protocol:

When a student reaches ten absences the attendance board at Wheeler will review their days absent in order to determine a plan of action to encourage success for the remainder of the year.

Tardy to Class:

If a student is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for class, other than because of a school-sanctioned event, he or she will be considered absent from class.

Limit on Total Number of Absences (High School Only):

No student will receive course credit for a full year course after having been absent from that course for more than twenty (20) class periods (excused or unexcused) during the school year for reasons other than school sponsored activities (i.e. field trips). The total number of absences will be pro-rated for less than full year courses and for courses which meet other than five times per week.

VII. Grading Policy

- All assignments are due in class on the assigned due date. Late homework can be handed in for half credit no more than 2 days after the due date. After two days, late work will not be accepted. Essays and Projects are penalized 10% every day that they are late.

- Assignments will be graded through a points system, as follows:
 - Homework/Classwork: 10
 - Quizzes – 50
 - Tests/Projects/Essays – 100 points each.

*Any additions or modifications to the grading/points system will be identified on the specific assignment.

* Keep in mind that I rarely offer “extra credit” assignments.

VIII. Final Assessment Policy

For one-credit, full-year courses, examinations are given at the conclusion of each semester—one at the midpoint and one at the end of the school year. For half-credit courses, a final will be given at the end of the semester. All examinations, except in selected classes, are one and one-half hours in length. All students must arrive on time and remain in class for the full duration of the exam period. Students taking the AP test will not be required to sit for a final exam. Seniors are exempt from taking a final exam with a 90% or higher in that class. Normally, no excuse for missing an exam other than illness will be accepted. The Principal must give such permission.

IX. Academic Integrity Statement

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension

X. *Teacher Availability for Extra Help (Day and Time):* _____
Homework will be posted to Twitter and Instagram – @MrsCurioso

REMIND: text @ _____ to 81010

STUDENTS:

I acknowledge my reading of the course syllabus and the demands, responsibilities and consequences for the Introduction to Psychology course.

Student Name (print)	
Student Signature	

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

I acknowledge my reading of the course syllabus and the demands, responsibilities and consequences for the Introduction to Psychology course.

An additional note:

This year in Introduction to Psychology your child will be examining various psychological concepts. In order to better express and illustrate these concepts, the class will be exposed to a variety of materials, including news articles, book excerpts, documentaries and film. Some of these materials may contain adult content such as language and/or violence. Please check the appropriate below to indicate whether or not you approve of your child studying these materials in class. If you do not give your child permission, alternate assignments will be provided for them during the study of such material. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me, 860-535-0377.

I do ____ do not ____ give my child permission to view materials deemed appropriate for the classroom by Mrs. Curioso.

Parent/Guardian Name (print)	
Parent/Guardian Signature	